Revolution 2020: Love, Corruption, Ambition _Chetan Bhagat

- Genre: Fiction, Politics, Romance
- Publication date: 5 October 2011
- Its story is concerned with a love triangle, corruption and a journey of self-discovery.
- R2020 has addressed the issue of how private coaching institutions exploit aspiring engineering students and how parents put their lifetime's earnings on stake for these classes so that their children can crack engineering exams and change the fortune of the family. While a handful accomplish their dreams, others sink into disaster.
- The author stated that the novel is based on the "rampant corruption" apparent in the Indian educational system, with the choice of Varanasi as a setting emerging through "a special connection to the city" following his visit. He further said "it is one of our oldest cities, and people there now have modern aspirations. I thought the contrast would be interesting. The city also has a lot of character."
- **Plot:**

This book follows the story of two friends separated by their ambitions and passions yet connected by their love for the same girl. While Gopal, who has experienced the harsh realities of life due to poverty aspires to become rich, his friend Raghav is a boy from a well-off family who desires to create a revolution in India by fighting corruption.

Aarti and Gopal have been childhood friends since but have a platonic relationship. As teenagers, Gopal pushes Aarti for more, but she later reveals that she was not ready for anything. Gopal gets a low ranking in the AIEEE exams while Raghav is among the toppers. Gopal moves to Kota to join reputed coaching classes to help with his ranking. Raghav becomes a celebrity in the town after he passes the IIT entrance exam. Aarti falls for Raghav during Gopal's absence. Aarti and Gopal chat online, and Aarti reveals her relationship to Gopal, who is heartbroken. He studies hard but gets a low ranking in the AIEEE exam for the second time. His father dies shortly after . Raghav decides to become a journalist and pursue a career in a newspaper publishing house.

Meanwhile, Gopal is contacted by a politician who wishes to build an engineering college on the highly valuable land that Gopal's family owns. Gopal agrees to the deal, and joins the system of corruption in India in order to build the college with the politician's black money. He is tired of giving white envelopes to officials but has no other choice. Raghav, now a journalist, exposes the corruption-funded college and is eventually fired from the newshouse. Raghav starts his own newspaper, Revolution 2020, to change the world and expose the corrupt system in India. After another expose, Raghav's newspaper is shut down by politicians and thugs, and he loses almost everything.

Raghav is still passionate about his activism and forgets about Aarti. They are still unmarried. Aarti and Gopal reconnect and often meet after work in coffee shops and other places, unbeknownst to Raghav. Gopal books a hotel room in the same hotel that Aarti works. Gopal seduces Aarti who returns his love, giving in to years of suppressed feelings. Aarti falls in love with Gopal, and begins to cheat on Raghav. Gopal then decides to disclose to Raghav that him and Aarti are a couple. Gopal goes to Raghav's office but a chance encounter with a poor farmer and his kid who had come to Raghav for help shakes him up and he realizes the folly of money, power and wealth. He decides to let go of Aarti perhaps realising they were never meant to be together and Raghav would always remain Aarti's love. He with the help of politician invites two prostitutes as a part of his birthday surprise and ensures Aarti witnesses it, making her hate him forever. He anonymously helps Raghav get a job, and suggests he become a politician (MLA) to bring about the revolution he desired. Aarti and Raghav thereafter got married.

Gopal becomes a rich and successful businessman, but is still heartbroken over Aarti. Despite sacrificing his lifelong love to bring about the revolution, Gopal still doubts whether he is a good man or not. After listening to Gopal's story, the author confirms that he is indeed a good man.

Author Chetan Bhagat says the idea of his latest work 'Revolution 2020' emerged because of the rampant corruption in the education sector which affects millions of youth.
"I am a motivation speaker now and travel around the country. As part of that, I visited several small colleges and noticed the rampant corruption in the education sector. I thought this affects millions of youth so I should do something about it. Hence, 'Revolution 2020' was born," Chetan said.
He said the story talks about how goodness never really dies in people. "We may choose different paths, but ultimately the desire to be seen as a good person remains," he said.
'Revolution 2020' is the story of childhood friends Gopal, Raghav and Aarti who struggle to find success and love in Varanasi. However, it isn't easy to achieve this in an unfair society that rewards the corrupt. As Gopal gives in to the system, and Raghav fights it... the story is about who will win.
When asked why the story was based in Varanasi, Chetan said, "I felt a special connection to the city when I visited it. It is one of our oldest cities, and people there now have modern aspirations. I thought the contrast would be interesting. The city also has a lot of character."
Chetan, whose books have remained bestsellers since their release.
The 37-year-old, an alumni of IIT Delhi and IIM Ahmedabad, is the author of four blockbuster books, Five Point Someone (2004), One Night @ the Call Center (2005), The 3 Mistakes of my life (2008) and 2 States (2009).
The writer said his protagonists Gopal and Raghav are intelligent boys..one wanted to use his intelligence to make money. One wanted to use his intelligence to create a revolution. The problem was, they both loved the same girl.
Revolution 2020 is "foremost a love story, in fact a love triangle, as both Gopal and Raghav love the same girl (Aarti). Corruption, particularly in the education sector, is the backdrop of the story."

(Source: https://www.firstpost.com/fwire/revolution-2020-inspired-by-corruption-in-education-chetan-bhagat-107511.html)

1. **What is 'Revolution 2020' about?**

Revolution 2020 is about Gopal, Raghav and Aarti, who struggle to find love and success in Varanasi.

2. **The tagline says 'Love. Corruption. Ambition.' What is going on?**

The tagline refers to the key themes of the book. Revolution 2020 is foremost a love story, in fact a love triangle, as both Gopal and Raghav love the same girl. Corruption, particularly in the education sector, is the backdrop of the story. All three characters have strong ambitions, and how they go about achieving them also forms a big part of the story.

3. **What made you write this book, after your last book "2 States: The Story of my marriage"?**

2 States was a fun story inspired from my own life. I wanted to take a lighter look at inter-cultural marriages. I had fun doing it, and people had fun reading it, as it became my highest selling book.
Revolution 2020 comes from my travels across India in the past two years. As a motivational speaker, I have visited more than 50 cities in the heartland of India. The youth in these smaller cities, their dreams and aspirations inspired me to do a story on them.
I also saw disturbing levels of corruption in the education sector, which can have profound effects on the quality of education we are giving to our new generation, and wanted to bring that to people's attention.

4. **Sounds heavy. Is it?**

Not at all. It is a Chetan Bhagat book. I think by now my readers know, that no matter how serious the issue is, I make my stories light and entertaining. The issues with the education system and the levels of corruption in the country are obviously grave concerns, but as a storyteller I have to balance it with the need to make a gripping, entertaining story.
So, along with the messages, there's romance and a lot of drama this time.

5. **Why Varanasi?**

I wanted to pick a city from the Indian heartland, especially a place with a lot of character. Something about Varanasi connected with me, every time I went there. I felt compelled to write about it. After all, Varanasi is a place where people go to cleanse their sins. Has anyone ever thought about the people who live there, and deal with all the sins people have left behind?

(Source: http://www.chetanbhagat.com/books/revolution-2020/qa/)